



# Press Release

## United States Forces, Japan

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### **USAF TO TRAIN JAPANESE AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS AT KADENA**

Today, the U.S.-Japan Joint Committee approved an historic plan on the training of Civil Aviation Bureau Japan Air Traffic Controllers in Kadena Radar Approach Control Services by the U.S. Air Force 18<sup>th</sup> Wing at Kadena Air Base. This training is an essential requirement prior to transferring control of Okinawan airspace back to Japan. Currently, the 18<sup>th</sup> Wing provides both civilian and military air traffic approach control service on Okinawa.

Training is scheduled to begin on 15 December 2004. It is estimated it will take approximately three years to complete, after which consultations will take place in the Joint Committee to coordinate the transfer of radar approach control services in this airspace to Japan. Approach control services will then be transferred to the Naha Airport Office, where facilities and equipment are being acquired and installed.

According to Brig. Gen. Timothy Larsen, the U.S. Government Joint Committee Chairman, "This plan illustrates the continued deep respect and good working relationship between Japan and the U.S. The U.S. Government will continue to fully support and cooperate in the transfer of Okinawa Approach Control Services and responsibility to the Government of Japan."

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**Media Advisory:** News media are invited to receive a tour of the Kadena RAPCON facility on December 15 at 1030 to see where the Japanese controllers will begin their training. Media wishing to cover the first day of training should contact 18<sup>th</sup> Wing public affairs at 098 938-1111, Ext 634-1159.